

## The Perceivers

James B.

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Mark woke up in his room and quickly slipped on his glowing red monocle. It was a day like any other day except for the meeting he had this morning. He was required to be there by Dr. White which meant it must be something important. He stood up and shut his eyes, he was at the meeting when he opened them, or was he always there? That's the question that allowed him to do this hopping from place to place. He just had to perceive he was there and he would be there. The other question: does space, time or matter only exist as you perceive it? was proved yes by the perceivers and that was also why they have to wear their red monocles. The red monocles remind them of how the world should be seen and keep them from thinking they no longer exist.

Mark suddenly stopped thinking about all of this and sat down. Dr. White started to speak, " You are all here today because I am selecting a team of perceivers to send to the Andromeda galaxy where you will be scouting out planets that can be made habitable for humans, since overpopulation is an issue nowadays." At last thought Mark, *a chance to give mankind some elbow room but how?* Dr. White started to speak again, "You will be doing so by using your strongest perceiving skills to change whatever molecules are there into oxygen and water. We can do the rest easily once we have that finished. With that said, I will be selecting the team of three: Mitch Grey, Ted Stevens, and Mark Sledge. You will all be equipped with these oxygen masks. They last a week but you should be finished by then."

After Dr. White finished that sentence they slipped on the masks and they arrived

at a desolate planet. Their first attempts at perceiving oxygen failed so they decided to take a look around the barren plains of the planet.

After what seemed like an hour or so, they came upon what looked like lights in the distance, as they got closer they noticed a tall tower in the center of a large city. The tower had a large, clear dome at the top of it. Mark looked around, the other two members of his team were gone. Being suspicious about the large tower and his vanished teammates, Mark decided to teleport to the city. He arrived in an alleyway with the smell of cloned fish and cigar smoke. “Hey you, with the red monocle, you shouldn’t be here,” Mark heard someone say. He looked around and spotted a man with a beard that curved off in all directions. “The truth is starting the cleansing in the next 24 hours. Do you know this man?” he said.

“I don’t know who The Truth is and what is the cleansing?”

“The Truth is a man who believes the thoughts of perceiving matter differently should be erased from the minds of people, he believes that it is harmful to society and he has built a machine that is set to go off in 24 hours from now. There is no escape from it either because there is a shield keeping you on this planet. You are stuck here and your mind will be cleansed whether you like it or not.”

Mark thought about this for a while and responded, “What if I wrote down everything I knew and relearned it after the cleansing?”

The man replied, “You could try that, but if they catch you they will kill you.” Mark did just that and he was caught and he was killed. But the way to perceive things in a different way was rediscovered on a planet in a distant array of stars called Wing IV.